

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Transportation



**Bladensburg Road Multimodal Safety and Access Study
Meeting Minutes**

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) - Meeting # 1
Meeting Date: March 30, 2022**

DDOT Team

Karyn McAlister, Project Manager, Active Transportation Branch
Ed Stollof, Project Manager, Project Planning Branch - Planning & Sustainability Division
Kelly Jeong-Olson, Community Engagement, Community Engagement Division

Community Advisory Committee Members (Alphabetically by Last Name)

Parraize Butler, Bicycle Advisory Council/Ward 5 Member
Jacqueline Manning, ANC 5C Chairperson (5C04)
Sydelle Moore, ANC 5D Chairperson (5D05)
Pyrrha Hallums, Pedestrian Advisory Council/Ward 5 Member
Salvador Saucedo-Guzman ANC 5D02
Cobb, Stephen ANC 5D07

Project Team (Alphabetically by Last Name)

Levenson Boodlal, Project Principal with KLS Engineering, LLC (KLS)
Mike Gifford, Project Manager with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RKK)
Sean Moore, Public Engagement Specialist with KLS
Matthew Ridgway, Concept Development with Fehr & Peers (F&P)

1. Call to Order

Karyn McAlister called the Kickoff Meeting of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to order at 5:02 p.m. The meeting convened via Microsoft Teams due to the social distancing requirements mandated by COVID-19.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Karyn McAlister welcomed all participants to the meeting and highlighted this first meeting as an organizational meeting of the CAC as well as a project update

discussion. Introductions ensued of the representatives from DDOT, the project team from KLS, RKK, and F&P, and the members of the CAC.

3. Logistics

Karyn McAlister provided an overview of the meeting's logistics, including how to use the various functions of the Microsoft Teams system; and the ground rules/protocol for the meeting.

4. CAC Charter

Karyn McAlister summarized the components of the CAC's charter. The charter's purpose is to provide guidelines for the CAC as it assists DDOT with obtaining integrated community input during the study. The CAC charter will be sent to members of the CAC. As an acknowledgment, CAC members will be asked to sign the charter which includes an agreement containing their responsibilities and the operating guidelines. In summary, the responsibilities of the CAC include:

- a. Attend CAC meetings.
- b. Advise the Project Team on matters directly related to the study.
- c. Act as a sounding board to DDOT during Phase 1 of the study.
- d. Advise, support, and assist the Project Team and other project partners in providing feedback regarding existing challenges and proposed solutions.
- e. Bring community perspective.
- f. Help engage other community members/organizations.
- g. Provide input, skills, and knowledge to help assess the concepts, study analysis, and recommendations.
- h. Concerning public meetings, offer feedback on agendas; help disseminate public meeting notices and invitations to constituents; and attend and participate in public meetings.

Advisory members will help disseminate approved recommendations concerning the study. DDOT members will track key recommendations; and will post CAC meeting minutes and key deliverables on the project website.

It was clarified that the Community Advisory Committee shall have no legal responsibilities and will function only in an advisory capacity. The CAC will contain approximately 12 members and will be comprised of members of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions single member districts and one member each from the Pedestrian Advisory Council, the Bicycle Advisory Council, and the Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Council. Alternates will be appointed to serve as required.

The CAC will convene approximately five times and will meet for up to one and a half hours each session.

5. **Project Overview**

Karyn McAlister provided an overview of the project's goals, stating that the project's purpose is to conduct a multimodal traffic study to develop solutions to improve roadway safety and access for all users, especially pedestrians and bicyclists.

The key study objectives are:

- a. Review and analyze the safety and access of existing vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities
- b. Evaluate results of roadway reconfigurations, including reducing travel lanes and including on-road bicycle facilities
- c. Develop conceptual designs that address safety and access
- d. Conduct an environmental review
- e. Identify issues to be settled in future designs

6. **Project Scope of Work**

Karyn McAlister summarized the project's study area. The corridor is approximately 2.5 miles long. The primary study area is Bladensburg Road NE from Eastern Avenue in the north to Maryland Avenue in the south. Major elements of the scope of work include data collection, analysis, concept development and screening, preferred concept development, environmental documentation, and public engagement. Karyn McAlister then summarized the anticipated focus for each CAC meeting.

A summary of the scope of work was presented, including the existing conditions and data collection; including a preview of the preliminary data such as crashes, traffic volumes and transit information.

Ms. McAlister stated that the project will also develop an evaluation matrix that will evaluate the No Build, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 concepts. The matrix will help see the tradeoffs among the options and help the community choose the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be developed into the final concept plan. High level cost estimates to be developed for the future design and construction. An environmental review (NEPS) will be completed. This discussion concluded with the Scope of Work summary and anticipated schedule.

7. **Public Engagement**

Karyn McAlister summarized the Public Engagement Plan with the goal to have meaningful public involvement process that results in community-based action items and coordinated agency outreach and involvement. The intent will be to:

- a. Build off previous DDOT community engagement
- b. Conduct community outreach via:
 - I. Project Website
 - II. Online engagement – mapping tool and survey

- III. In person engagement - tabling along corridor
- IV. Three virtual/in-person public workshops (# 1 May 2022) per District protocols
 - c. Conduct Community Advisory Committee (CAC, up to 5 meetings)
 - d. Conduct Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC, up to 5 meetings)
 - e. Conduct other stakeholder meetings as needed.

The CAC will be updated throughout the engagement process including the format of future meetings.

A more detailed review of the public engagement process was shown via the project website (still in progress). In addition to the home page, there are pages containing information concerning the study's elements; public engagement/involvement; the study area; resources and project materials; next steps; and contact information. Key discussion focused on the project "Interactive Tools;" and "Survey", new public engagement tools available to DDOT. The project website address is:

<https://engage.dc.gov/BladensburgSafetyStudy>

The CAC representatives were asked to point interested persons to the website to add their concerns, take the survey and to be kept updated on the project.

8. **CAC Member Perspectives**

The DDOT and Project Team discussed the perspectives of CAC members regarding the project. Responses were provided to questions and comments from:

Questions from the Chat

1. Ms. Butler asked what are the projected start and completion dates for some of these upcoming projects (Arboretum, NY Ave, Lincoln Connector)? Will the Bladensburg project be dependent on any of the other projects? Karyn McAlister shared that the study project is not contingent on the completion of any other project and that we are coordinating our efforts across projects.
2. Will DDOT do a street calming measure on each block that merges onto Bladensburg Rd and South Dakota Ave? Karyn McAlister noted that the project doesn't address traffic calming on neighborhood streets that intersect Bladensburg Road and that is best addressed through traffic safety investigations and the Ward Community Engagement Specialist.

Items from CAC Discussion:

Community Outreach

1. CAC members noted that a robust outreach plan was needed. Karyn McAlister noted that an outreach strategy was happening and included the website, electronic communication and corridor outreach through posters, flyers and community groups. Specific concerns raised by CAC members included:
 - a) Don't use Nextdoor as your only outreach.
 - b) Don't expect ANC's to do your outreach. The ANC role is to advise.
 - c) A direct mail notice to corridor residents was strongly recommended.
 - d) ANC 5D02 Guzman asked would DDOT fund printed material to handout to residents such as Seniors or others that do not have easy internet access?
 - e) A lot of seniors on the corridor will miss electronic messages. Please use paper flyers and posters. Consider making paper surveys with drop boxes available at senior residences.
 - f) Consider deaf community in outreach plans especially in 5D
 - g) ANC 5D02 Guzman noted that this project needs to avoid the communications disaster from the West Virginia Ave. project.

Karyn McAlister responded that the public engagement would be extensive as discussed and we will look at the other options discussed to increase the outreach covering print, electronic, face-to face, and other methods.

Meeting Times

1. Meeting times are important to get resident participation. Community meeting be held later on maybe from 6.00 p.m. Karyn McAlister responded that future meetings will start at 6.00 p.m.
2. Send invite to ANCs that couldn't make the meeting and see if they want to have a small meeting. Karyn McAlister responded that an email will be sent.

Safety and Improvements

1. ANC 5C Chairperson Manning wants safety improvements on all side streets. Karyn McAlister explained that this can be accomplished through working with DDOT's Community Engagement Specialist Dalando Baker and the Traffic Safety Investigation process.
2. ANC 5C Chairperson Manning requested lighting and sidewalk upgrades. Karyn McAlister explained that this is not a streetscape project so that things

outside of the curb will not be included. However, DDOT will look at increasing sidewalk width at pinch point areas and other targeted areas.

3. ANC 5C Chairperson Manning likes the 2 turn lanes that DDOT added northbound to New York Avenue. Chairperson Manning also commented that we should make Bladensburg Road a spine not a divider. Karyn McAlister explained that the project will look at making the corridor safe for all road users including those most vulnerable and an operational analysis will also be performed.

Arboretum Concerns

1. ANC 5C Chairperson Manning discussed the flooding on T Street from Arboretum – she has spoken to Dr. Olsen. She noted Dalando Baker is familiar with this issue and will follow-up.
2. Impact of Arboretum entrance relocation to Bladensburg Road was raised. Karyn McAlister explained that this project is aware of the proposed entrance and will coordinate with the Arboretum.
No response required.

9. Next Steps

Karyn McAlister and the Project Team indicated the next steps to be taken in the process include:

1. Complete Data Collection (early April)
2. Traffic Modeling (April)
3. Public Input (Ongoing)
 - a) Update Website
 - b) Interactive Tool and Survey
 - c) Corridor Outreach
 - d) CAC/Stakeholder Outreach
4. Finalize Existing Conditions Report (April)
5. Finalize Corridor Base Map (April)
6. Community Meeting #1 (May)
7. Start Concept Development Discussions (May)

10. Adjournment

The April 30, 2020 CAC meeting was adjourned at 6.20 p.m.

11. Chat Log Below:

1. [5:22 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - Several accidents (NY Ave)
 - A camera at the top of the hill of Bladensburg Road would be nice
Karyn McAlister explained that the project would look at speeding along the corridor.

2. [5:25 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - Close R St entry to Arboretum
Comment noted for discussion with the Arboretum who is part of the Interagency Advisory Committee.
3. [5:25 PM] Parraize Butler (Guest)
 - Awesome, connectivity is important. That was going to be one of my questions on how this project would connect with the upcoming projects in this area.
No response required
4. [5:26 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - Cut through North of Channing
Comment noted and will be forwarded to DDOT Dalando and Traffic Safety Investigations,
5. [5:34 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - I hope NEXTDOOR is not your only outlet to reach the residents
As discussed multiple methods of public engagement is being undertaken.
6. [5:35 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - Please do a mailer
Will be considered as we firm up the outreach methods.
7. [5:35 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)
 - Please do not leave out the senior community
Agree, will visit and have printed materials available.
8. [5:36 PM] Salvador Saucedo Guzman
 - Would DDOT fund printed material to handout to residents such as seniors or others that do not have easy internet access?
Yes, ongoing activity.
9. [5:37 PM] Sean Moore (Team comment)

Nextdoor is only one part of the outreach. We are looking to work with the ANC's and other community groups, churches, businesses etc. to get the word out as well as utilizing broad outreach formats (flyers, etc.)
10. [5:37 PM] Parraize Butler (Guest)
 - What are the projected start and completion dates for some of these upcoming projects (Arboretum, NY Ave, Lincoln Connector)? Will the Bladensburg project be dependent on any of the other projects?
No, completion of other projects is not contingency on this project.

11. [5:40 PM] Sean Moore
Discuss during Q&A

12. [5:40 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)

- Will DDOT do a street calming measure on each block that merge on to Bladensburg Road and South Dakota Ave?
Not part of this study.

13. [5:49 PM] Parraize Butler (Guest)

- 100% agree (need for full review due to congestion and cut through)
No response required

14. [6:01 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)

- Thank You Commissioner Guzman
No response required

15. [6:01 PM] Jacqueline Manning (Guest)

- Yes
No response required